

March 31, 2023

Re: Neighborhood Meeting of February 23, 2022 regarding the proposed Third Transformer at Somerville Substation #402

This first neighborhood meeting was held in conjunction with Somerville's Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen as required by the Somerville Planning Department. Councilor Ewen-Campen substituted for Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, who recused himself as a direct abutter to Station #402.

The goal was to present the station-related scope of work to community members and abutters, including the installation of new equipment, the installation of new fencing and screening, the installation of new landscaping, expected construction impacts, and associated timelines.

After the presentation, participants were encouraged to ask questions by typing in the "chat" or by voice. Concerns raised during the question period included:

- a. Noise
- b. Vegetation/landscaping
- c. Concern that the Station #402 project would impede future Green Line expansion to Porter Square
- d. Request for the substation to be undergrounded, moved, or otherwise fully enclosed
- e. Appearance and upkeep of the current station and need for improvement

DETAILED RESPONSES TO CONCERNS RAISED

Each of these concerns was addressed in the moment, and subsequently addressed at the second neighborhood meeting, which took place in December 2022.

- a. **Noise:** Eversource Director of Engineering, John Zicko, relayed that sound technology associated with transformers has improved dramatically over time and it is not expected that the installation of a third transformer would add significantly to the ambient noise in the area. Additionally, the proposed wall obscuring the third transformer from view on the Newton Street side of the property would provide additional sound attenuation.

Further, as a result of the neighbor's concerns, a sound consultant was engaged to ensure the design would be in compliance with city and MADEP standards.

- b. **Vegetation/landscaping:** Residents commented that trees along the property line were poorly maintained and inquired as to Eversource's intentions for these trees and asked if new trees could be planted. Meredith Boericke, Outreach Manager, noted that trees that are on Eversource property would be removed as part of the Project. Additionally, it was noted that substations have vegetation requirements; in this case, Eversource is able to add vegetation near the Prospect Street driveway, but that safety requirements prevent adding trees closer to the fence line, as trees along the perimeter would represent both a security concern and potential fall hazard.
- c. **Impediment to future Green Line expansion to Porter Square:** Members of the Eversource team relayed that the proposed new equipment would be installed on northern side of the property, as far from the MBTA right of way (ROW) as possible, while still within the Eversource property. Additionally, as a public service provider Eversource is committed to working with all our partners, including the MBTA, to support the development of new, critical infrastructure requirements.

Further, as a result of the neighbors' concerns, Eversource took steps to meet with and retain in writing assurance from MBTA staff, including the Project Manager for Commuter Rail Safety and Resiliency, the Director of Construction for the GLX Project, and the Manager for Transit Oriented Development, that the installation of the proposed third transformer would have no impact on the MBTA ROW running along the south side of the property.

- d. **Request for the station to be undergrounded, moved, or otherwise fully enclosed:** The Eversource technical team explained that placing a substation underground or moving the current station would takes a decade or more to find a site, design, permit and construct a substation. All the while, Eversource is obligated to maintain a continuous and adequate electric supply to the city, meaning these alternatives would not eliminate the need for a third transformer. Additionally, placing a station underground does not create new open space due to the numerous ground-level structures required to support an underground station.

Furthermore, Eversource heard from residents if moving the station or putting it underground is not feasible, there was a desire to create an enclosure that would mimic a building. Eversource committed to work on an aesthetic design that would more fully enclose the existing and future components of the substation.

- e. **Appearance and upkeep of the current station and need for improvements:** residents expressed their frustration that currently the substation is unkempt. There was a desire that pedestrians exiting the new Green Line elevator should have a more pleasant view than the current station. Eversource acknowledged that the appearance of the substation could be improved. As a result, the prominent lattice tower structure that supports a dish antenna will be removed in its entirety. Also, the rusting metal shields located atop the existing equipment wall enclosures will be removed. New metal shields will only replace a section of those that are to be removed from the wall enclosures, next to the MBTA right-of-way (ROW). Rust stains from the existing shields will also be removed from the wall enclosures and the existing structures that safely allow for it will be repainted. Eversource committed to work on an aesthetic design that would more provide a more welcoming view from the Green Line elevator on Prospect Street.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MADE AS A RESULT OF THE FEEDBACK

The below changes were made as a result of the feedback from the February 23, 2022 neighborhood meeting that we could effect: that the substation “look more like a building”. The changes noted below were presented to the community at a December 12, 2022 neighborhood meeting. During the intervening months between meetings, Eversource worked with the city to develop a facade that aimed to meet the residents’ concerns and the design aesthetic in the neighborhood, while conforming to site constraints and security and safety standards.

Despite the number of complexities and constraints involved in putting up walls in the midst of existing underground utilities, Eversource proposed a three-sided enclosure that would provide the following elements requested by the community:

- A “blank canvas” for public art, with a commitment to work with the neighborhood and the Somerville Arts Council on the design for said artwork.
- A welcoming view from the Green Line elevator, which included a building-like facade. To account for the significant grade change in this area, space for public art and decorative downlighting was placed high on the wall so that it would be seen from the elevator’s exit.

- On the Newton Street-side, a stretch of solid wall provided a canvas for artwork, and also served to reduce ambient noise.
- On the Webster Ave. side of the parcel, no additional structures were suggested because the property line, a grade change, and existing underground utilities make wall foundations impractical along this edge of the property line. Additionally, we heard from residents that they wanted assurance that this project will not impede the MBTA and did not want a wall to create a perception of an impediment.

**LIST OF THE PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED ABOUT THE MEETING,
ALONG WITH THE MANNER AND DATE OF CONTACT**

In addition to city staff, Councilor Ewen-Campen, members of Union Square Main Streets and the Union Square Neighborhood Council, and US2 executives, who were contacted via email, please see Attachment A for the list of abutters within 300 feet who were contacted via USPS. The notification (Attachment B) was approved in conjunction with Ward 3 City Councilor, Ben Ewen-Campen. Notifications were sent on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

A ROSTER OR SIGNATURE SHEET OF ATTENDEES AT THE MEETING

Since this was a virtual meeting there was not a sign in sheet of attendees. We estimate three dozen community members were in attendance. The list of those who spoke or raised questions in the chat are noted below.

Eversource Attendees:

- Meredith Boericke, Project Services
- Elizabeth Toner, Community Relations
- Keith Sonia, Field Outreach
- Eamon McGilligan, Siting
- Duane Boyce, Project Management
- John Zicko, Engineering
- Henry Cobb, Engineering
- Amsa Mangga, System Planning
- Lee Brandenburg, Engineering
- Lillian Cryan, Landscape Architect

- Anne Vigarito, Attorney

City of Somerville Attendees

- Ben Ewen-Campen, Somerville City Council, Ward 3
- Andrew Graminski, Somerville Planning Department

Resident Attendees who asked questions/made comments

- Michele Hansen
- Daniel Wong, Houghton Street
- Aaron Weber
- Richard Klancer
- Mike Katz
- Linda Gritz
- Karen Molloy
- Matt
- Steve Huff
- Patrick Dignan
- Tori Antonio
- J.T. Scott
- Alex Frieden
- Jamie Perconti
- Ann Camara
- Mary White
- Kate Cavellini
- Jim McGinnis
- Betsy Larkin
- Pat Larkin
- Wig Zamore
- Gary Trujillo

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT AT THE MEETING

See Attachment C

Owner	OR Current Resident	Address (Mailing)	City (Mailing)	State (Mailing)	Zip Code (Mailing)
MARY C WHITE	OR Current Resident	8 EMERSON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
MIA REALTY LLC		PO BOX 550	SEABROOK	NH	03874
CASEY RILLAHAN	OR Current Resident	17A EVERETT ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
MATTHEW & JESSICA MESERVEY	OR Current Resident	3 CLARK ST UNIT 1	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
PATRICK M & ELIZABET A LARKIN TRUSTEES	OR Current Resident	2 EMERSON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
JOSE & ALZIRA G VELOSO	OR Current Resident	10 CLARK ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
ROBERT & KAREN ARENA		35 LINCOLN WOODS	WALTHAM	MA	02451
32 WEBSTER AVE LLC		34 FOREST ST	WATERTOWN	MA	02472
ALIKI PISHEV		19 DAVIS RD	CARLISLE	MA	01741
WYNER STEPHEN TRUSTEE		40 CLEVELAND RD	CHESTNUT HILL	MA	02467
LORA LYNN LLC		280 MAIN ST	NORTH READING	MA	01864
ELIZABETH G LEFAVOUR	OR Current Resident	11 CLARK ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
25 WEBSTER AVE LLC		1200 SOLDIERS FIELD RD #102	BOSTON	MA	02134
UNION 2 ASSOCIATES LLC		39 BRIGHTON AVE	BOSTON	MA	02134
JEFERSON THOMAS SCOTT	OR Current Resident	269 WASHINGTON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
CHUN ZHI WANG & JUNG-FEN PAN	OR Current Resident	9 CONCORD AVE	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
UNION 2 ASSOCIATES LLC		39 BRIGHTON AVE	BOSTON	MA	02134
MICHAEL RAPOSA		83 WHIPPLE RD	TEWKSBURY	MA	01876
ELIO HERNANDEZ	OR Current Resident	17 CLARK ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
GRITZ LINDA & KATZ MICHAEL TRUSTEES		3 EMERSON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
FRANCISCO MORALES	OR Current Resident	62 NEWTON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
TRUST THE 24 WEBSTER BUILDING		24 WEBSTER AVE	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
D'ALELIO FAMILY LLC		39 BRIGHTON AVE	ALLSTON	MA	02134
SHAHRIYAR MOJAHED		8 THORNBERRY RD	WINCHESTER	MA	01890
JACQUES & ELAINE THOMAS	OR Current Resident	18 WEBSTER AVE	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP		264 WASHINGTON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
EVELYN PERSOFF	OR Current Resident	56 NEWTON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
JOSE R & WANDA J & JULIO RIVERA	OR Current Resident	15 CLARK ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
JOHN A & ROSE M SIMAS		29 SURREY RD	WINCHESTER	MA	01890
FRANCIS X FAHEY	OR Current Resident	244 SOMERVILLE AVE	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
TRUST WEBSTER AVE REALTY		258 ANDOVER ST	GEORGETOWN	MA	01833
JOHN A & ROSE M SIMAS		29 SURREY RD	WINCHESTER	MA	01890
DEXTER BATES		21 SAGAMORE RD	ARLINGTON	MA	02476
TOME & MARGARIDA CORREIA	OR Current Resident	60 NEWTON ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
KRISTEN H & IAN B LUCAS	OR Current Resident	17B EVERETT ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
JOSHUA B LEDERMAN	OR Current Resident	19A EVERETT ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
NATALIE KALOGERAKI	OR Current Resident	19B EVERETT ST	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
ANDREA L YAKOVAKIS		53 MADISON AVE	CAMBRIDGE	MA	02140

SAMUEL D FREILICH	OR Current Resident	3B CLARK ST UNIT 2	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
SARAH MCGLINCHEY	OR Current Resident	1D CLARK ST UNIT 5	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
PATRICK M MCANNENY	OR Current Resident	1 CLARK ST UNIT 8	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
JENNIFER JANE DOHERTY	OR Current Resident	1 CLARK ST UNIT 1C	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
ILAN M & CLARA LEVIN	OR Current Resident	1 CLARK ST UNIT 7	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145
PAUL MACDONALD	OR Current Resident	3 CLARK ST UNIT 4	SOMERVILLE	MA	02145

You're Invited!



Scan QR Code to Join!

Please join us and City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen for a virtual neighborhood meeting on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. to learn about a proposed Eversource project in Somerville, MA.

When: February 23, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Virtual, using Zoom.

3 ways to join us on February 23 at 6:30 p.m.



Log on at **zoom.com** using Meeting I.D. 868 9962 1640 and Passcode: 480754



Scan the QR code with your smart phone



Call 1-646-558-8656 and using Meeting I.D. 868 9962 1640 and Passcode: 480754

What: Eversource is proposing to build a new transformer and associated equipment at the **Prospect Street Substation** in Union Square, located next to the Prospect St bridge. The purpose of this transformer is to improve and strengthen the electric grid.

You may submit questions before the meeting by emailing us at ProjectInfo@eversource.com or by calling 1-888-793-2202. All pre-submitted questions will be answered during the meeting. To reach Councilor Ewen-Campen, email benforward3@gmail.com or call at 617-702-2613.

We hope to see you there!

Spanish: Si necesita que le traduzcan esta notificación, envíenos un correo electrónico a Projectinfo@eversource.com y escriba "Prospect Street" en el asunto.

Portuguese: Se você precisar de uma tradução desta notificação, envie um e-mail para Projectinfo@eversource.com e digite, "Prospect Street" na linha do assunto.

Chinese: 如果您需要本通知的翻译版本，请发电子邮件到 Projectinfo@eversource.com，并在主题栏中输入“Prospect Street”。

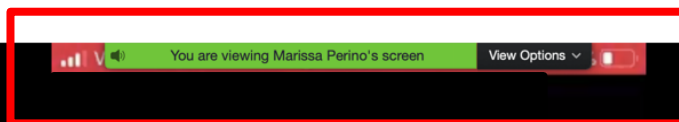
Somerville Station #402

Prospect Street, Union Square

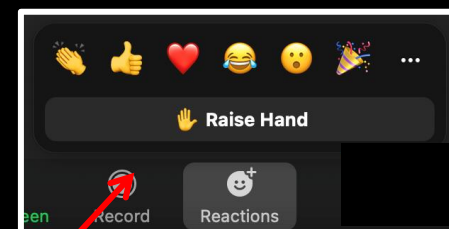
February 23, 2022

Navigating Zoom

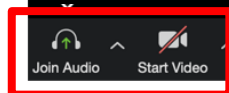
This meeting will be recorded



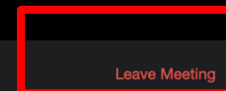
Indicates who is sharing screen.



Use the chat. Raise your hand.



Leave



Hello!

¡Hola!

Olá!

你好!

You should leave understanding



Why this electric project is beneficial and necessary

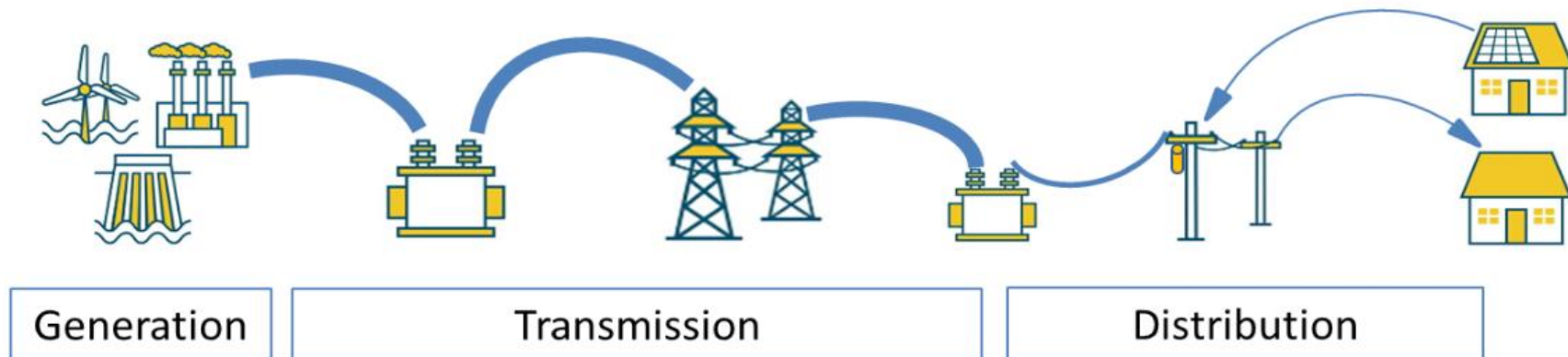


What you can expect during construction



What you can expect after construction

Getting electricity to where it is needed



A strong electrical transmission grid is **vital to the safety, security and economic prosperity of the region.**

The transmission system serves a critical role to **ensure that electricity flows** with a high degree of reliability **from wherever the power is generated to where it is needed.** It serves as the **electric backbone** that helps bring high voltage energy to substations where it is **distributed through poles and wires to lower voltages to homes and businesses.**

The Prospect Street Substation upgrade will provide **additional electric supply** to meet the growing needs of the area.

Proposed Prospect Street Substation Upgrade

Adding a third transformer & associated equipment

Prospect Street Substation #402

1

New transformer and switchgear will be adjacent to the existing substation.

2

Some new equipment will be needed within the existing substation yard, while some existing equipment will be removed.

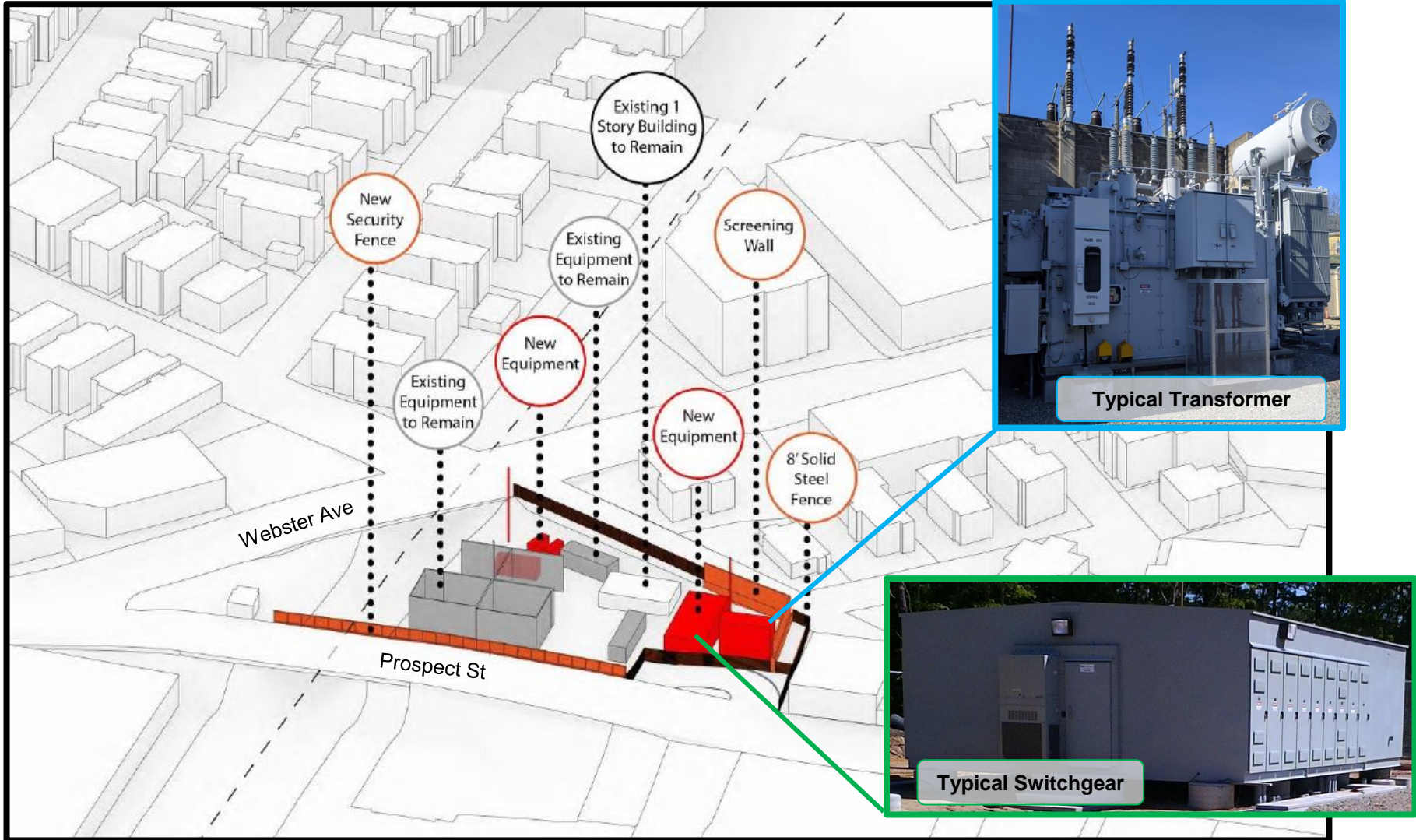
3

Remnant of paper street which Eversource has rights to pass over.



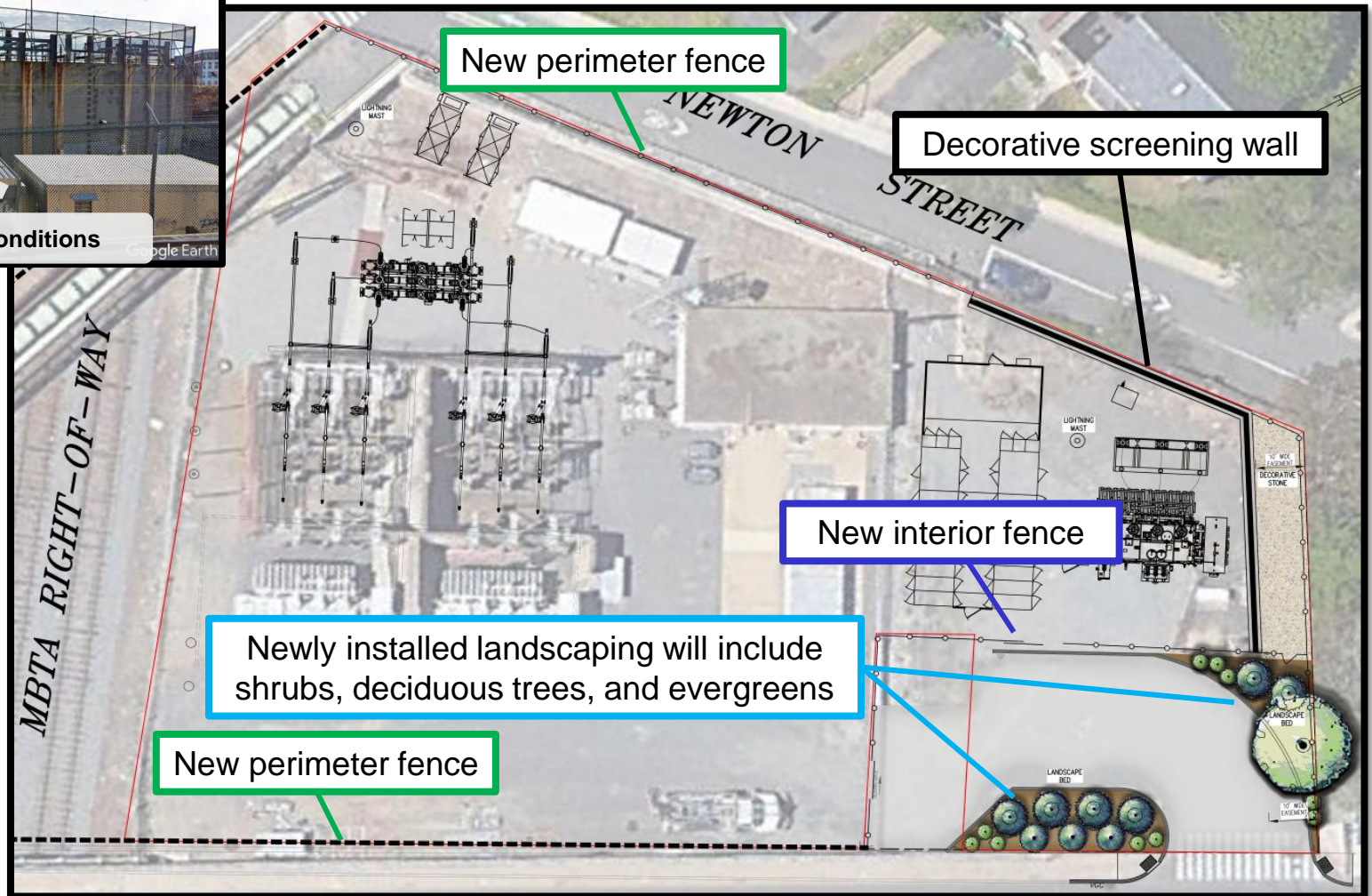
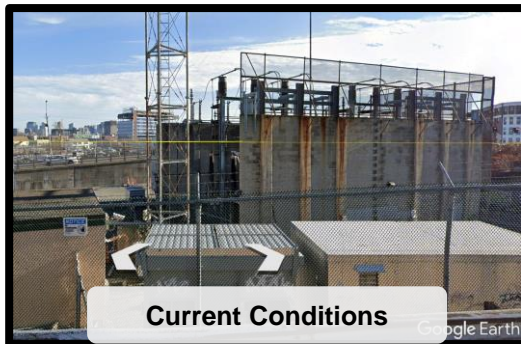
Proposed Prospect Street Substation Upgrade

Adding a third transformer & associated equipment



New fencing, decorative screening & landscaping will improve the streetscape around the Station

EVERSOURCE
ENERGY

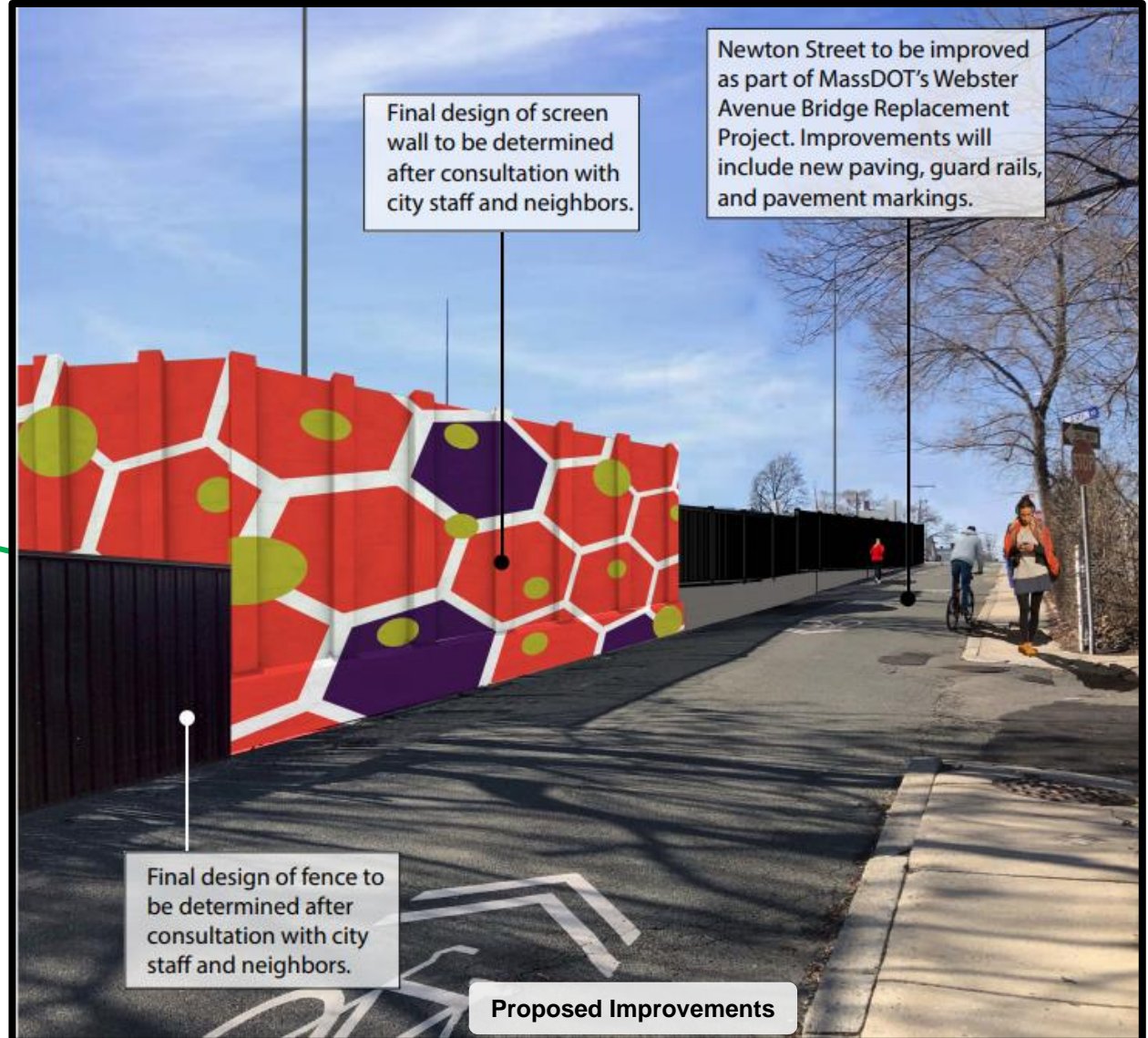


Improving Newton Street

New screen wall with mural and new perimeter fencing

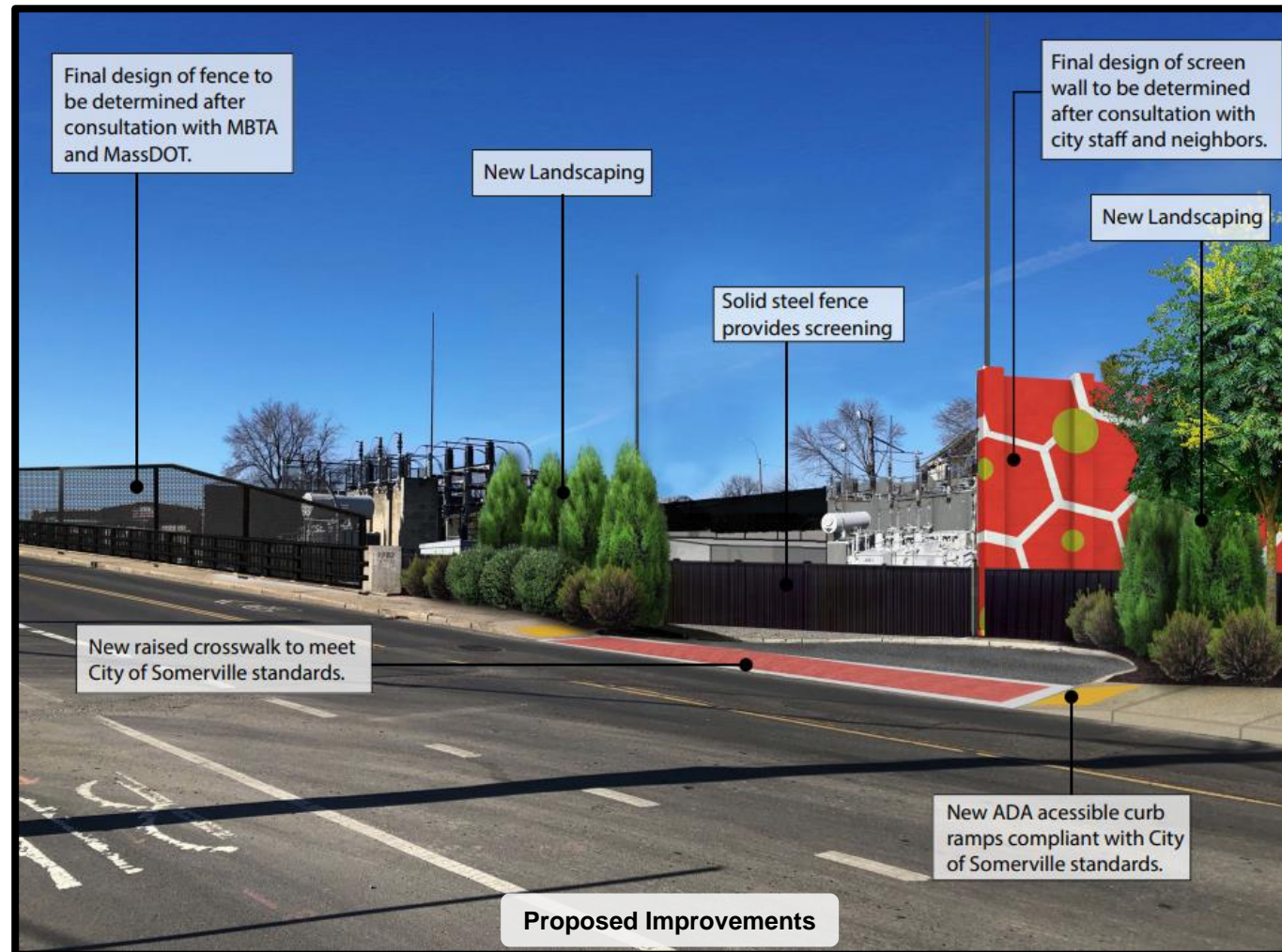


Exterior fence can be flat topped with anti-climb “comb”, or it can be picket style



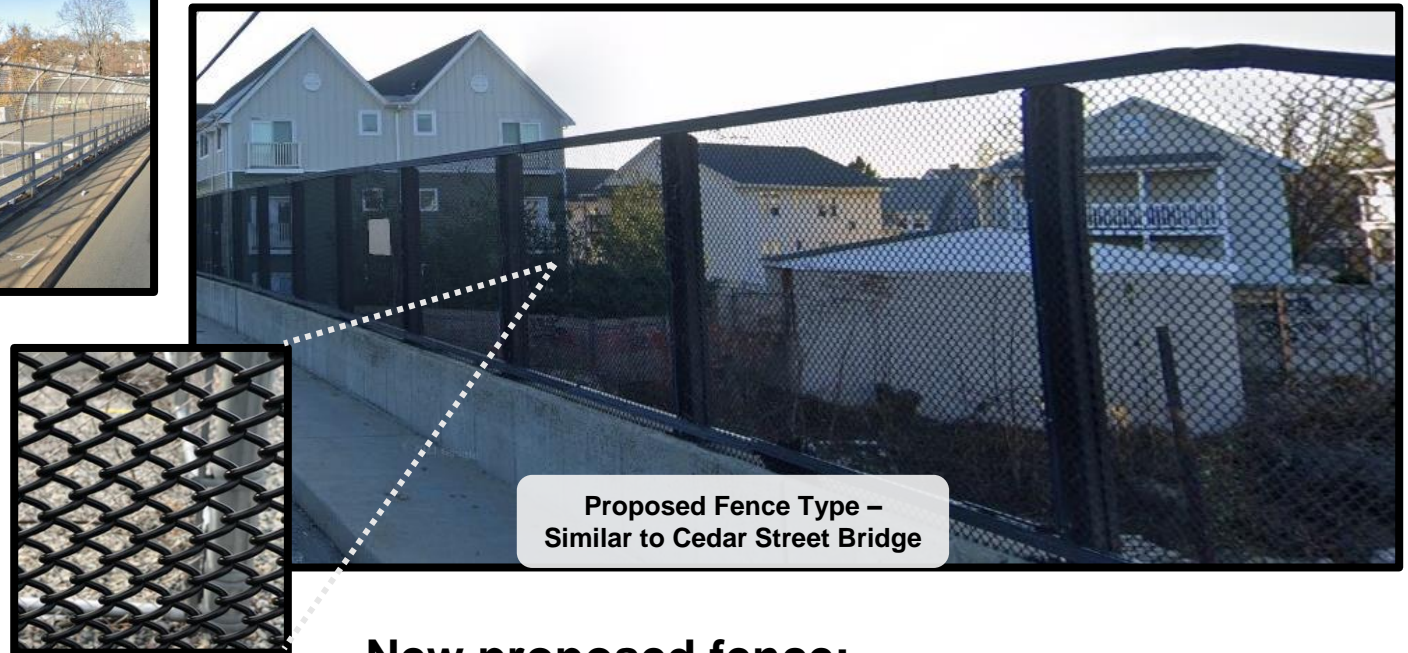
Improving Prospect Street

New landscaping, interior and perimeter fencing



- ✓ New raised crosswalk
- ✓ New accessible sidewalk ramps
- ✓ New landscaping
- ✓ Tight weave chain link fence over bridge

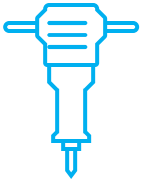
Improving the Prospect Street Bridge*



New proposed fence:

- ✓ Modern look – current MassDOT standards
- ✓ Powder coated black
- ✓ Tight weave mesh
- ✓ Existing metal guard rail will remain

*MBTA and MassDOT must approve the proposed fence for the Prospect Street bridge.



Construction will not interrupt your electric service

Neighbors will be notified before construction begins.



Work Hours

Established by the city. Typically, Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.







Project Duration

From project start to final restoration, work is expected to take between 14 and 16 months. All work will take place on the Eversource property.



Street Closures

No street closures are anticipated; however, police details may be needed to help implement Traffic Management Plans when unloading larger pieces of equipment.

-  Somerville Planning Board
-  Apply for Building Permit
-  Anticipated project start: late spring/early summer 2022*
-  Ongoing: Communication and Outreach.
You can contact us at any time about this Project!

Field Outreach, Keith Sonia

- 781-720-9726
- keith.sonia@eversource.com

Outreach Manager, Meredith Boericke

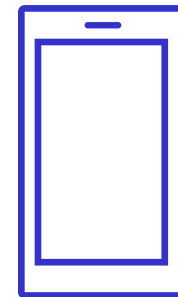
- 781-296-6202
- meredith.boericke@eversource.com

Community Relations, Liz Toner

- 508-308-4768
- elizabeth.toner@eversource.com

Contact our hotline

- 800-793-2202
- projectinfo@eversource.com





MEETING MINUTES/ NOTES

Eversource

Station 402 Neighborhood Meeting in Conjunction with City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen

MEETING DATE:

2/23/2022

EVERSOURCE & SUPPORT ATTENDANCE:

Meredith Boericke
Elizabeth Toner
Keith Sonia
Eamon McGilligan
Duane Boyce
John Zicko,
Henry Cobb
Amsa Mangga
Lee Brandenburg
Lillian Cryan
--

Ben Ewen-Campen, Somerville City Council
Andrew Graminski, Somerville Planning Department

LOCATION:

Zoom

MEETING PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

This meeting was held in conjunction with Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen as required by the Somerville Planning Department. Councilor Ewen-Campen substituted for Ward Councilor J.T. Scott owing to Councilor Scott being a direct abutter to Station 402. This meeting was required in order for Eversource to then appear before the Somerville Planning Board.

The goal was to present the station-related scope of work to residents and abutters, including the installation of new equipment, the installation of new fencing and screening, and associated timelines.

DISCUSSION

- **Councilor Ewen-Campen** opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees while expressing gratitude for their participation. He explained that the meeting would be recorded and that he and the Eversource team would continue the meeting until attendees had all of their questions addressed.

- **Councilor Ewen-Campen** then kicked it over to **Meredith Boericke** to begin the presentation. Meredith proceeded to go through the slide deck, explaining transmission the scope of the project and the needs prompting it. This included an overview of the associated equipment, including transformers and switchgears, as well as the upgrades planned for both the Newton Street and Prospect Street sides of the project. Meredith then continued on to the construction portion of the slide deck, explaining that there would be no interruption to electric service, that construction hours would be agreed to with the city of Somerville, and that the expectation is that there would be no disruption to the normal flow of traffic as a result of the project, but should that change, Eversource would work closely with the Somerville police department. With that, the presentation concluded, and Meredith opened the Q&A portion of the meeting. It was explained that participants could either put their questions in the chat or by utilizing the raise hand function to be unmuted.

Q&A:

- **Steve Huff** asked why this station and related equipment cannot be situated underground, as is being done in Kendall Square with the Greater Cambridge Energy Project. Mr. Huff notes that open space in a congested community like Somerville is scarce.

- **John Zicko** acknowledged that open space in Somerville is precious, but that an underground solution at the current location would not be beneficial in securing new open space at ground level, owing to the need for ground level structures to support any underground equipment.

- **Mike Katz & Linda Gritz** asked how high the new equipment being installed is and would this contribute to a decline in natural light reaching their residence on Newton Street.

- **Meredith** noted that the new fence would be 8 feet in height and that a new wall would assist in visualizations and soundproofing. Eamon McGilligan, with the insistence of Councilor Ewen-Campen, used the slide deck to zoom in on specific equipment and explained that the switchgear is roughly 12 feet high, while the transformer is 22 feet high.

- **Mike Katz & Linda Gritz** asked about the poorly maintained trees along the project perimeter and what the team intended to do with them.

- **Meredith** noted that those old trees that are on Eversource property would be removed as part of the project. Eamon explained that Eversource has made it clear to the owner of the neighboring CrossFit gym (J.T. Scott) that it was willing to remove any invasive trees. Eamon also noted that there exists a city easement and a 10-foot setback and that this is a factor as it relates to the issue of vegetation.

- **Mike Katz & Linda Gritz** asked about the drone-like noise emitting from the station that abutters are subjected to, particularly in the summer when it is more common to open windows. They wondered if anything was being done to address this issue.

- **John Zicko** noted that sound technology associated with transformers has improved dramatically over time and that Eversource now can determine what additional acoustical treatment is needed at the station.

- **Alex Frieden** asked if this project will prevent the MBTA from extending tracks for the Green Line in to Porter Square.

- **Meredith** explained that the city of Somerville has explained that the MBTA has stated that it is not Station 402 that would preclude any Green Line extension into Porter Square, but rather the Prospect Street bridge. Andrew Graminski of the Somerville Planning Department then confirmed that this was the case.

-**Alex Frieden** asked if we can install a tree line instead of a new wall.

-**Meredith** noted that each station has vegetation requirements; in this case, Eversource is able to add vegetation near the Prospect Street driveway, but that safety requirements prevent us from adding more. John Zicko confirmed that trees at additional locations along the perimeter would represent both a security concern and potential fall hazards.

- **Alex Frieden** asked if Eversource planned to move any curb lines on Prospect Street.

- **Eamon** confirmed that Eversource would not move curb lines and that the existing driveway. Instead, Eversource planned to bring ramps into compliance and would install a raised crosswalk.

- **Kate Cavellini** asked about construction timelines owing to the need for additional street work related to the Greater Cambridge Energy Project. She expressed a deep sense of construction fatigue and concern that multiple projects occurring in the area would represent a significant inconvenience.

-**Eamon** acknowledged the distribution street work associated with this project and Duane Boyce explained that this project and the Greater Cambridge Energy Project are operating on much different timelines.

- **Michele Hansen** expressed a similar sense of construction fatigue. She then asked if the new Kendall Square substation would be sited underground.

-**Eamon** explained that Eversource is working with a private developer, Boston Properties, that could make siting an underground substation in Kendall Square a distinct possibility.

-**Michele Hansen** asked if cost is the only reason Eversource will not site Station 402 underground in a similar fashion.

- **Meredith** explained that Eversource has an obligation to its ratepayers and that costs associated with a project like the one Michele is asking Eversource to undertake would be passed on to ratepayers.

- **Michele Hansen** asked which community benefits most from Station 402.

- **Eamon** stated that projects like the one proposed at Station 402, it is with ten-year projections in mind for the surrounding area – he is unable to continue as Ms. Hansen cut him off.

- **Michele Hansen** asked who would be in charge of shoveling the property when it snows during inclement weather. She noted that this has been a longstanding issue.

- **Meredith** and **Eamon** explained that the Eversource operations team is responsible for station maintenance, including during inclement weather. Meredith also reinforced the fact that Eversource maintains direct lines of communication to residents and that the community can reach the team with any concerns or issues.

- **Jim McGinnis** expressed that he thought a new fence was a half-measure because the long-term trajectory of the area will eventually lead to the station sticking out even more prominently as development continues around it. He then asked why, as a compromise, Eversource could not instead build what appears from the outside to be a two-story building around the station. He then asked to see the overhead image slide and expressed that he thought Eversource needed to do a survey to determine its property line as he thought there were aspects of the station that might be on MBTA land.

-**Meredith** committed to getting back to Jim on these points.

- **Ann Camara** expressed agreement with Jim on the idea of building a larger, more discreet structure. She then expressed an opinion that construction in the area needed to be better coordinated between stakeholders like Eversource and US2. Without better coordination, disruption and construction fatigue would be a permanent feature of the neighborhood.

- **Betsy & Pat Larkin** noted that the current fence at the station attracts graffiti. They asked what Eversource can do to limit graffiti in the future.

- **Meredith** mentioned that new anti-graffiti substances make it easier to clean walls that are tagged. Liz confirms that there has been discussion with the city on this particular issue and that Eversource certainly does not want to build any structure only for it to be desecrated.

- **Betsy & Pat Larkin** asked if the proposed fence has to be black or if alternative colors could be considered.

- **Lillian Cryans** noted that the coating used on fences is not limited to black and color could be incorporated based on neighborhood consensus. John Zicko noted that there are often engineering requirements about substances used on perimeter fencing but that Eversource is able to regularly work with stakeholders to balance those needs with the desires of the neighborhood.

- **Wig Zamore** asked who at the MBTA has signed off on the right-of-way as it relates to the Green Line reaching Porter Square.

- **Andrew Graminski** from the Somerville Planning Department could not give a definitive answer.

- **Wig Zamore** clarified that he was not interested in the city answering his question and that he wanted to know who at the MBTA Eversource worked with to assure the current right-of-way allows for expansion of the Green Line to Porter Square.

- **Eamon** committed to getting back to Mr. Zamore on this issue.

- **Wig Zamore** expressed that it was crucial for us to get the timing of this right so that there would not be any future barrier to Green Line expanding to Porter Square. He also expressed his opinion that future presentations need to be able to show the project from all angles and sight-lines and that Eversource should work closer with the robust artistic community in the area in a manner that ensures that the station perimeter design should be a feature for pedestrians.

- **Richard Klancer** expressed a desire for the station to be sited underground and, with this in mind, asked which authority was responsible for authorizing this project. What role does the DPU have?

- **Eamon** noted that the permitting process for this project began around one year ago and that Eversource considered pursuing a DPU zoning ordinance. Instead, as is Eversource's preferred option for all projects, the team instead began working with the city of Somerville on local permitting. Eamon also noted that regardless of which option Eversource chose at the beginning of the permitting process – either the DPU or local permitting – the timelines would have been similar.

- **Tori Antonino** reiterated that there needs to be transparency in ensuring that this project not preclude the Green Line from expanding to Porter Square. She then expressed her support for siting the station underground and that if Eversource could organize a private/public partnership to accomplish that, she would be supportive of that. Can it be accomplished? What would the cost be to ratepayers?

- **John Zicko** had Meredith again share the overhead view of the station and explained in greater detail that there would still be numerous ground-level structures on the parcel to support an underground station, demonstrating that there is little to be gained on the parcel for siting the station underground. In response to a real-time question that came through the chat asking if Eversource could site the station underground at another location in Somerville, John Zicko explained that this option could not be accomplished without significant corresponding construction, including in the street and that it would be massively impactful to the neighborhood.

- A question from the chat asked about the flood table and flood risks to the site given climate change and other risk factors.

- John Zicko was unable to give an answer related to the flood risk and did not want to give an incorrect answer. He committed to getting an answer on flood risks to the station and how Eversource is able to mitigate those risks.

- A question from the chat asked about funding of projects – could Somerville or the DPU allocate the funds necessary to site the station underground? Could any authority – Somerville or DPU – order Eversource to site the station underground or elsewhere?

- **John Zicko** noted that rarely is cost the ultimate factor when there is a determined need for any project. The DPU does, as part of its oversight, look into the impact of project on ratepayers. John Zicko does not know for sure but believes that Eversource being forced to perform any project by any authority likely would have been the result of a legal action.

- A question from the chat asked what the lifetime of the new equipment is.

- **John Zicko** noted that transformers could be expected to be operational for 40 years, that there are switchgears in use that were initially installed in the 1960s and so any new equipment could be expected to last at least as long as that, and that new circuit breakers would be expected to last for 30 – 40 years.

- **Michele Hansen** again asked if ratepayers in Somerville benefit from Station 402.

- **John Zicko** explained that when the station first opened, it was to serve Cambridge, but that over time the grid has become more integrated, ensuring that stations sited in Somerville and in Cambridge provide two-way service to each community. Michele Hansen cut John Zicko off before he could better answer the question.

- **Michele Hansen** expressed frustration and her opinion that it seemed that Eversource could find a private developer, similar to the Greater Cambridge Energy Project, to site the station underground if it had the fortitude to do that.

- **J.T. Scott** then expressed his thoughts and opinions related to the project. He expressed concern that the new transformer would only be 45 feet from the nearest abutter to the station. He shared that he was as concerned as Mr. Zamore was about the potential for the station to prevent the MBTA to expand the Green Line to Porter Square. He believes that both the bridge and the station would need to be moved to accomplish that expansion. He also expressed concern about the potential for flooding to impact the station. As for maintenance, he expressed that it is he who shovels the station site and that he believes that, generally speaking, Eversource is not a good neighborhood steward. He noted that trees that were left in a poor state previously fell on his property as proof that Eversource is not committed to maintaining the site. He then expressed support for Michele Hansen's remarks and believes that Eversource could find an underground solution if pressed to do so. He noted that a specific line route related to the proposed Greater Cambridge Energy Project – S11C – abuts a large Eversource parcel that could theoretically house a station. He flatly states that, as things stand, he has zero support for the project.

- **Meredith** thanks Mr. Scott for his remarks and Liz Toner expressed a desire to work closely with neighborhood stakeholders to better understand the needs of the neighborhood.

- **Councilor Ewen-Campen** summarized the meeting and noted that, clearly, the neighborhood dislikes the current facility. He dislikes it, too. He concurs with the sentiment that the station has been severely neglected and is ugly and unattractive. He expressed that he believes Somerville

residents are not shortsighted – they understand the need for greater electrical capacity given the rate of development in the area. He believes, though, that we have not come up with a plan that Somerville residents can support. He expressed that he thought Eversource, as things stand, would have a difficult time at any Planning Board presentation. He recommended another neighborhood meeting that includes more detail on alternatives, including alternative locations. He expressed concern that there is clearly a lack of trust as it relates to the Green Line and that Eversource should come back to the community with greater assurances around that issue. He concludes by again stating that he thinks it is unwise for Eversource to bypass another neighborhood meeting in favor of presenting to the Planning Board.

- **Meredith** thanked the Councilor for his remarks and the desire for Eversource to keep the conversation going with the neighborhood.

- **Gary Trujillo** expressed an opinion that he believes the city needs to be better involved in publicizing these meetings, noting that there was no mention of the meeting on city portals.

- **Councilor Ewen-Campen** closed the meeting.